

Applicant: S. Jayaraman
Application No.: 09/924,540
Examiner: L. Channavajjala

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The filter bag of claim [[2]] 37, wherein the pharmaceutical active is selected from the group consisting of ~~aspirin~~, a chemotherapy agent, an anti-neoplastic agent, a mood elevating drug, a depressant drug, an anti-diabetic drug, an anti-ulcer drug, a gastrointestinal drug, an infertility drug, a fertility drug, a hormone, an erectile dysfunction agent, an anti-inflammatory drug, a coagulation drug, an anti-coagulant drug, an anti-platelet agent, an ace inhibitor, a cardiovascular conditioning drug, a cholesterol reducing agent, a lipid reducing agent, an antihistamine drug, an anti-infective agent, an autonomic drug, a central nervous system agents, a smooth muscle relaxant, an antitussive agent, a mucolytic agent, and a combination thereof.

4. (Currently amended) The filter bag of claim [[2]] 37, wherein the supplemental nutrient is selected from the group consisting of eucalyptus, glutamine, arginine, a fermentable dietary fiber, a non-fermentable dietary fiber, a phytochemical, an anti-oxidant, a mineral, an amino acid, an oligosaccharide, a short chain fatty acid, a pyruvate precursor, a pyruvyl-amino acid, ~~an ester, a salt, a structured lipid~~, d-chiroinositol, lactoferrin, a marine oil, an ascorbic acid, and a combination thereof.

5. (Currently amended) The filter bag of claim [[2]] 37, wherein the beneficial agent is selected from the group consisting of a probiotic, an enzyme, an electrolytic agent, a caloric agent, a water balance agent, a rehydration solution, a diagnostic agent, a vitamin, and a combination thereof.

6. (Currently amended) The filter bag of claim [[1]] 37, wherein the filter bag is adapted

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for use in cold or hot liquids.

7. (Currently amended) The filter bag of claim [[1]] 37, wherein the agent is adapted to solubilize when in contact with a liquid.

8. (Previously presented) The filter bag of claim 7, wherein the agent is adapted to be dispersible in a predetermined dosage amount into the liquid.

9. (Currently amended) The filter bag of claim [[1]] 37, wherein the at least one medicinal agent is disposed between two layers of the at least one sheet of porous material.

10. (Currently amended) The filter bag of claim [[1]] 37, wherein the at least one medicinal agent is present in a mixture with a drug releasing element and the mixture is applied to the at least one sheet of porous material.

11. (Currently amended) The filter bag of claim [[1]] 37, wherein the at least one medicinal agent is disposed between the at least one sheet of porous material and a layer comprising a drug releasing element.

12. (Original) The filter bag of claim 11, wherein the drug releasing element is gelatin.

13. (Previously presented) The filter bag of claim 12, wherein the gelatin is dissolvable when in contact with the liquid to release the at least one medicinal agent into the liquid.

14. (Currently amended) The filter bag of claim [[1]] 37, wherein the at least one medicinal agent is mixed with at least one enzymatically active material.

15. (Currently amended) The filter bag of claim [[1]] 37, wherein the at least one medicinal agent is present in a mixture comprising a temperature releasing agent.

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16. (Currently amended) The filter bag of claim [[1]] 37, wherein the at least one medicinal agent is present in a mixture comprising a degradable material adapted to provide a prolonged shelf life for the medicament.

17. (Currently amended) The filter bag of claim [[2]] 37, wherein the at least one medicinal agent is present in a mixture comprising a flavor producing or reducing agent.

18. (Currently amended) The filter bag of claim [[1]] 37, wherein the at least one sheet of porous material is selected from the group consisting of reinforced paper, knitted material, woven material, fibrous material, and a combination thereof.

19. (Currently amended) The filter bag of claim [[1]] 37, wherein the filter bag holds a beverage concentrate selected from the group consisting of tea leaves, powdered tea, powdered milk, apple cider, powdered soup, hot cocoa, and instant coffee.

20.-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) A filter bag for oral administration of medicament comprising:
at least one sheet of porous material forming a sealed bag comprising first and second compartments disposed in side by side relation to one another;

a beverage concentrate disposed in one of the compartments; and

a therapeutically effective amount of at least one medicinal agent ~~disposed on~~
incorporated into the porous material,

wherein the medicinal agent differs in composition from the beverage concentrate and the medicinal agent and the beverage concentrate are not directly mixed.

27.-30. (Canceled)

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31. (Previously presented) The filter bag of claim 26, further comprising at least one enzymatically active material.

32. (Previously presented) The filter bag of claim 26, further comprising a temperature releasing agent.

33. (Previously presented) The filter bag of claim 26, further comprising a flavor producing or reducing agent.

34. (Previously presented) The filter bag of claim 26, wherein the at least one sheet of porous material is selected from the group consisting of reinforced paper, knitted material, woven material, fibrous material, and a combination thereof.

35. (Previously presented) The filter bag of claim 26, wherein the beverage concentrate comprises tea concentrate.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently amended) A filter bag for oral administration of medicament comprising: at least one sheet of porous material having a therapeutically effective amount of at least one medicinal agent incorporated therein, the at least one sheet of porous material forming a sealed bag having comprising a coating of a therapeutically effective amount of at least one medicinal agent and a beverage concentrate therein separate from the medicinal agent;

wherein the at least one medicinal agent is selected from the group consisting of a pharmaceutical active, a supplemental nutrient, ~~a genetically derived material~~, a beneficial agent, and a combination thereof and

wherein the medicinal agent is incorporated into the at least one sheet of porous material without directly mixing with the beverage concentrate.

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38. (New) The filter bag of claim 37 wherein the pharmaceutical active is aspirin.